

The Honorable John L. McClellan,
Chairman Committee on Expenditures in
the Executive Departments,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter requesting information relative to the application of various recommendations and textual discussions concerning the Central Intelligence Agency contained in the reports of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. Because of the nature of the work of this Agency, I am sure you will understand the difficulties in giving any detailed public report of this nature while still maintaining essential security. However, I believe that I can make certain general statements which will be responsive.

The Central Intelligence Agency was established by the National Security Act of 1947 (P.L. 253, 80th Cong.). This act placed the Agency under the direction of the National Security Council, and the Commission has agreed that it is properly so placed. The Congress has now passed the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (Public Law 100, 81st Cong.), which give the Agency the administrative authorities it needs to carry out the functions assigned to it by the National Security Act of 1947. In addition, this new act is most important to us in the development of the career foreign intelligence service for the Government, which is so vital to the Agency's successful performance of its assigned missions.

Recommendation No. 4c of the Hoover Commission Report on the National Security Organization is "That vigorous steps be taken to improve the Central Intelligence Agency and its work." These steps, we feel, are being taken, and will continue to be taken in the future. In this connection, I invite your attention to paragraph 5 of the comments of the executive secretary of the National Security Council, contained in his letter to you dated June 22, 1949. He states:

"Last year the Council employed a special group of consultants from outside the Government to survey the Central Intelligence Agency and related intelligence problems and report its findings to the Council.

"The Council has considered this survey, has taken some indicated steps for improvement, and presently has under advisement additional steps to improve the Central Intelligence Agency and national organization for intelligence."

One particular weakness which was underlined by the task force report on the national security organization (appendix G, pp. 20 and 77) was in the field of scientific and medical intelligence. This criticism, which was justified, was anticipated and met by creating a special office within the Agency, under an assistant director, whose sole responsibility lies in

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Approved For Release 2002/11/07 : CIA-RDP80-01370R000100070025-7

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the field of scientific and medical intelligence. As assistant director we were most fortunate to secure an outstanding scientist, with a long and distinguished career, both in the field of applied science and medical research. In addition, the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (Public Law 110, 81st Cong., sec. 9) authorizes the establishment within the Agency of three P-9 positions for those scientific intelligence functions which require the services of specially trained scientific personnel.

Further criticism has been indicated of relationships among the various intelligence agencies throughout the Government and in the production of intelligence estimates. You may be assured that these problems are being considered on a daily basis, with thought to their continual improvement.

In your letter you note that your committee is particularly interested in recommendations in the field of general and personnel management, administrative services, and budgeting and accounting.

Great strides forward in the general field of administrative services are anticipated with the passage recently of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. While an exemption has been granted this agency under section 502 (d) (17) of this act, we are complying with its provisions wherever possible. As we stated in discussions with a member of your committee staff during consideration of this act, this agency has some very special problems in the field of procurement, which, because of the nature of our work, require that special means of procurement be taken. Normal procurement channels and methods cannot always be followed for reasons of security. In addition, section 3 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 extends to us certain authorities contained in the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947.

We have given careful study to the Hoover Commission reports in the fields of personnel and general management, and budget and accounting. We maintain a small management staff engaged in constant survey and review of agency activities. Their mission is the prevention of overlapping of functions and the establishment of organization structure and personnel authorizations on the basis of maximum production with minimum personnel.

We feel that this has produced excellent results so far. As I stated above, we are trying to build a career service in intelligence which shall be second to none. At the same time we are endeavoring to keep administrative costs at a minimum for administrative costs can be met at the expense of operational activities after a certain minimum has been reached. We are pleased to find, however, that many of the Commission's recommendations were already in practice here in administrative fields.

I trust that the above comments will be helpful to you, and if there is anything further we can do to assist you please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. HILLENKOTTER,
Rear Admiral, United States Navy,
Director of Central Intelligence.

(Letter appeared in the August 12, 1949 issue of the Congressional Record.)